

MOTION PICTURE COMICS



COLUMBIA PICTURES presents



JAN.

10¢

NO. 114

Cripple Creek

starring

GEORGE MONTGOMERY *with*

KARIN BOOTH • JEROME COURTLAND • WILLIAM BISHOP

A Fawcett
Publication



Color by
TECHNICOLOR

Written by RICHARD SCHAYER

Directed by RAY HAZARD

A RESOLUTE PICTURE



COLUMBIA PICTURES presents

CRIPPLE CREEK

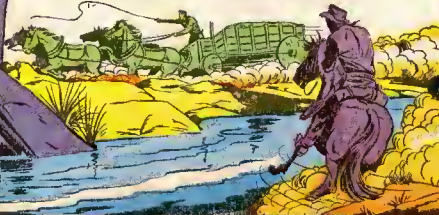
starring **GEORGE MONTGOMERY** with
KARIN BOOTH • **JEROME COURTLAND** • **WILLIAM BISHOP**

Written by RICHARD SCHAYER • Directed by RAY NAZARRO • A RESOLUTE PICTURE

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Best Ivers	GEORGE MONTGOMERY	Hawkins	RYRON FOULGER
Julie Hanson	KARIN BOOTH	James Sullivan	ROBERT BICE
Erroy Gifford	JEROME COURTLAND	Diamond	GRANDON RHODES
Silver Kirby	WILLIAM BISHOP	Lefty	ZOM MURAT
Strop Gifford	RICHARD BOAN	Coshies	PETER BROCCO
Danvers Jones	DON PORTER	Winfield Huston	CLIP CLARK
Emil Cabeau	JOHN DISHER	Muldoon	ROBERT G. ANDERSON
Marshall Tashman	ROY ROBERTS	Wicks	HARRY CORDING
"Hardrock" Hansen	GEORGE CLEVELAND	Jeff	CEIS ALCAIDE

Color by **TECHNICOLOR**



CRIPPLE CREEK



HIGH-GRADERS!

AS THAT GRIM CRY ECHOED THROUGH THE GOLD FIELDS EVEN BRAVE MEN SHUDDERED... AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT MARAUDING BAND OF KILLERS HAD STRUCK WITHOUT WARNING--TO ROB THE RICHEST MINES AND SLAUGHTER THE DEFENDERS WITHOUT MERCY!

AND THEN, AS IF ALL THIS WERE NOT ENOUGH, AN IRONIC FATE DEALT TWO MORE GUNSLICKS INTO THE GAME! TWO LEATHER-TOUGH TEXAS

DARING AND SIX-GUN SAVVY PROMISED TO MAKE THINGS EVEN HOTTER IN THE BULLET-SCARRED HILLS AROUND

CRIPPLE CREEK!

1893 IN THE MIDST OF A TERRIBLE FINANCIAL DEPRESSION, THE NATION BREATHES EASIER AT THE SUDDEN NEWS OF A HUGE NEW GOLD STRIKE IN THE SHADOW OF PIKE'S PEAK, COLORADO.

SO GREAT IS THE NEED FOR GOLD THAT PRESIDENT CLEVELAND EMBARGOES ALL GOLD EXPORTS, AND ORDERS THE GOVERNMENT TO BUY EVERY OUNCE OF GOLD FROM THE NEW MINE IN THE CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT!



AND THEN, ABRUPTLY, BLOODSHED AND VIOLENCE SWEEP THE DISTRICT IN A WAVE OF ORGANIZED LOOTING OF CRIPPLE CREEK'S RICHEST MINES!

OKAY, MULDOON! THEY'VE GOT THE WAGON LOADED WITH ORE SACKS!

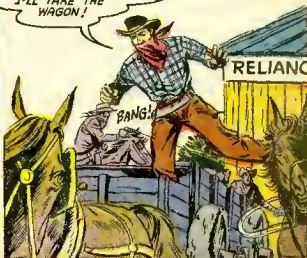
ALL RIGHT, MEN! SHOOT TO KILL! REMEMBER TO GET THOSE ARMED GUARDS FIRST!

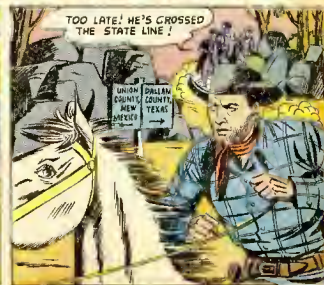
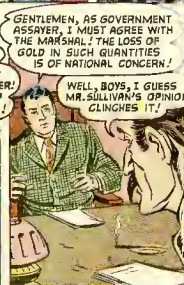
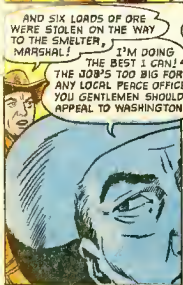
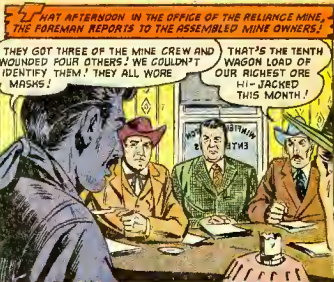


HIGH-GRADERS! IT'S A RAID!



CUT THEM DOWN, MEN, I'LL TAKE THE WAGON!





UT AS THE FUGITIVE STOPS AT A NEARBY STREAM!

HOLD IT, HOMBRE. TURN AROUND
EASY-LIKE AND
REACH!

THEY GOT ME
AFTER ALL!

KIND OF JUMPY,
AREN'T YOU,
BRET?

LARRY GALLAND!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE
ONE OF THAT TEXAS
POSSE!

HELLO, IVERS! SO
YOU GOT MY WIRE
AFTER ALL!

CHIEF DRUMMOND! I'M SURE
GLAD TO SEE YOU! BUT I HAD A
REAL ROUGH TIME FOLLOWING
YOUR INSTRUCTIONS!

EVERY LAWMAN IN TEXAS
WAS AFTER MY SCALP FOR
THAT BORDER JOB! WHY
DIDN'T YOU CLEAR ME
WITH THE STATE
AUTHORITIES?

IT WAS BETTER THIS
WAY, BRET! YOUR TEXAS
REPUTATION MAY
HELP A LOT IN THIS
CRIPPLE CREEK CASE!

CRIPPLE CREEK, BRET! THAT'S
WHERE WE'RE GOING! THE
BIGGEST GOLD HI-
JACKING CASE
IN HISTORY!

THEY'RE
GETTING AWAY
WITH TONS OF IT!
SMUGGLING IT OUT OF
THE COUNTRY AT A
TIME WHEN GOLD IS
THE LIFE-BLOOD OF
THE LAND!

SOUNDS LIKE
A BIG JOB,
SIR!

MORE THAN A
DOZEN PEACE
OFFICERS HAVE
BEEN KILLED
TRYING TO STOP
THE ROBBERS!

THE HI-JACKERS ARE
ONLY THE FIRST LINK!
MOST OF ALL WE WANT
THE MEN WHO ENGINEERED
THE SCHEME AND
ARRANGED THE
PAYOFF!

AND THIS
BRONCO IS THE
ONLY HELP I'M
TO HAVE?

YOU'LL HAVE HIS BROTHER STRAP, TOO! HE'S ALREADY IN CRIPPLE CREEK! HIS LATEST REPORT SAYS THE MULDOON GANG IS WORKING FOR THE CABEAU LIVERY STABLE THERE!

THE MULDOON GANG-- THAT'S ONE OF THE TOUGHEST OUTFITS IN THE WEST! THAT MIGHT BE A LEAD!

STRAP SUGGESTS THAT A COUPLE OF NEW GUN-SLINGERS MIGHT JOIN THE GANG!

HOW DO WE CONTACT STRAP, SIR?

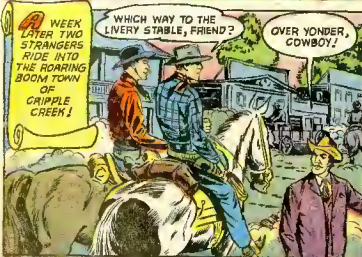
DON'T TRY! HE'LL BE WATCHING FOR YOU! LET HIM MAKE THE CONTACT! THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU! FROM HERE ON YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!



A WEEK LATER TWO STRANGERS RIDE INTO THE ROARING BOOM TOWN OF CRIPPLE CREEK!

WHICH WAY TO THE LIVERY STABLE, FRIEND?

OVER YONDER, COWBOY!



MEANWHILE, AT THE LIVERY STABLE, THE OWNER GREETS A VISITOR!

YOU'RE EARLY, MULDOON! THE WAGONS WON'T BE READY TO ROLL FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS!

THEY WON'T ROLL AT ALL, CABEAU, IF WE DON'T GET OUR PAY FOR THE LAST THREE JOBS!

EMIL CABEAU LIVERY BOARDING STABLE HEAVY HAULING HARDWOOD



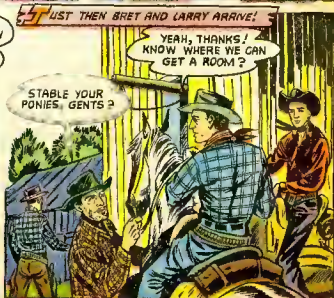
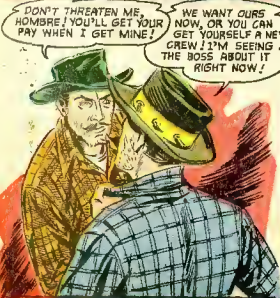
DON'T THREATEN ME, HOMBRE! YOU'LL GET YOUR PAY WHEN I GET MINE!

WE WANT OURS NOW, OR YOU CAN GET YOURSELF A NEW CREW! I'M SEEING THE BOSS ABOUT IT RIGHT NOW!

JUST THEN BRET AND LARRY ARRIVE!

YEAH, THANKS! KNOW WHERE WE CAN GET A ROOM?

STABLE YOUR PONIES, GENTS?



HARD TO SAY! TOWN'S
OVERCROWDED! YOU
MIGHT TRY THE
SILVER PALACE!

MUCH
OBLIGED!

SILVER PAL

AS THE UNDERCOVER LAWMEN APPROACH THE SILVER
PALACE, THE STREET SUDDENLY ERUPTS WITH GUNFIRE!

EEYAH!
MY HAND!

DON'T TRY ANY MORE OF
THAT. REMEMBER, DENVER
JONES GIVES A CHUMP
ONLY ONE BREAK!

THAT
DENVER
HOMBRE IS
SURE FAST
WITH A GUN!

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE SILVER PALACE...

GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN!
SILVER KIRBY'S THE NAME! I
OWN THIS PALACE! WHAT CAN
I DO FOR
YOU?

THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE
US A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT!
THE LIVERY MAN, CABEAU,
SENT US OVER!

CABEAU, EH? WELL, WE'LL SEE IF
WE CAN DO SOMETHING FOR YOU!
OH, JULIE!

JULIE, HAVE WE A CANCELLED
RESERVATION FOR THESE
GENTLEMEN?

WHY, YES! WE
WERE HOLDING A ROOM
FOR A MR. MCKEE! BUT HE
LEFT TOWN! COME ALONG,
GENTLEMEN, I'LL SHOW
YOU THE
WAY!

WHEN CABEAU SENDS 'EM
HERE IT MEANS THEY LOOK
SUSPICIOUS AND HE WANTS
YOU TO KEEP AN
EYE ON THEM!

YEAH! NOW
WHAT DO YOU
SUPPOSE CABEAU
SAW IN THOSE TWO
TO WORRY ABOUT?

BUT AS BRET WALKS PAST THE GAMBLING TABLE, HE SPOTS A FAMILIAR-LOOKING DEALER!

IT'S STRAP GALLAND! THE MAN WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WORK WITH!



MOMENTS LATER, IN AN UPSTAIRS-HALLWAY...

WELL, HERE'S YOUR ROOM! NOW, IF YOU'LL PLEASE GIVE ME YOUR NAMES, I'LL REGISTER FOR YOU!

BRET IVERS IS MINE--AND THIS IS LARRY GALLAND! JUST A COUPLE OF DRIFTERS UP FROM TEXAS TO SEE THE SIGHTS IN CRIPPLE CREEK!



AND WE SURE LIKE WHAT WE'VE SEEN SO FAR!

THEY MUST HAVE MOVED THE BLARNEY STONE TO TEXAS! GOOD NIGHT, BOYS!



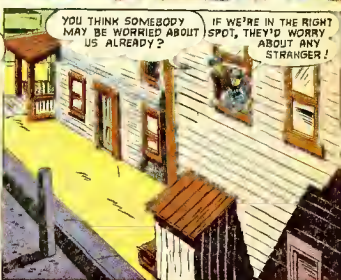
BRET, DID YOU SEE STRAP GALLAND THERE DEALING FARO?



EASY, LARRY! WE'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR HIM TO MAKE THE FIRST PLAY! NOW QUIET DOWN WHILE I CHECK THIS WINDOW!

YOU THINK SOMEBODY MAY BE WORRIED ABOUT US ALREADY?

IF WE'RE IN THE RIGHT SPOT, THEY'D WORRY ABOUT ANY STRANGER!



MEANWHILE, AT THE BAR DOWNSTAIRS, MULDOON REPORTS TO HIS MEN!

SO IT'S NO DEAL AND WE'VE GOT TO WAIT FOR THE BIG PAYOFF BECAUSE SILVER KIRBY SAYS SO?

WE'RE NOT WAITING! WE'LL MAKE OUR OWN COLLECTION TONIGHT! COME ON, WE'LL PICK UP THE OTHER BOYS!



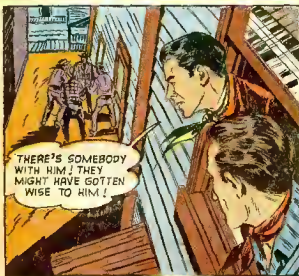
LATE THAT NIGHT, AS THE SILVER PALACE CLOSES DOWN...

TWO MORE DEALERS CHECKING OUT OF THE BACK DOOR, MULDOON!

THAT LEAVES ONE DEALER LEFT! LET'S MOVE! KIRBY MUST BE COUNTING THE GAMBLING TAKE NOW!

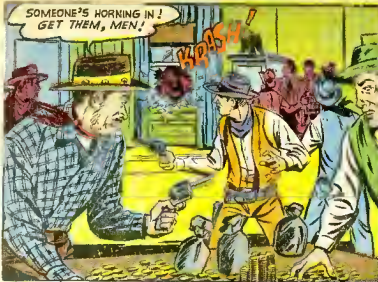


BUT THE LAST DEALER OUT IS STRAP GALLAND,
THE UNDERCOVER AGENT!



BUT
LARRY
STUBBORNLY
REFUSES
TO LISTEN,
AND BRET
FOLLOWS
LOYALLY!





AS BRET AND LARRY BLAST THEIR WAY INTO THE ROOM...

BUT BEFORE THEY REACH THE DOOR...



SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN THE ROOM UPSTAIRS...

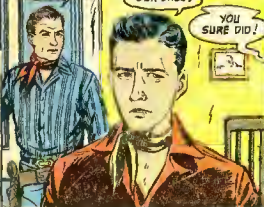
LARRY, I OUGHT TO KNOCK YOUR BLOCK OFF!

I'M SORRY, BRET! YOU'RE DEAD RIGHT! I NEARLY WRECKED OUR CASE!

YOU SURE DID!

STRAP, GO AHEAD, BAWL ME OUT! I'VE GOT IT COMING!

IT'S NOT THAT BAD, KID! I THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO PIECE IT TOGETHER!



KIRBY IS GRATEFUL, BUT SUSPICIOUS! BUT HIS KILLER DENVER JONES FIGURES YOU TWO AS A COUPLE OF OUTLAWS LOOKING FOR A SOFT TOUCH!

SWELL, THEN KIRBY MAY MAKE US A PROPOSITION IF HE RUNS THE SHOW!

IF HE DOES! I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT HUNCHES SO FAR, BUT THERE'S A TIE-IN BETWEEN HIM AND CABEAU!

I FIGURED AS MUCH--THE WAY CABEAU'S NAME GOT US THIS ROOM! HOW DO THEY WORK IT?

HERE'S ALL I'VE GOT! CABEAU HAS TEN WAGONS HAULING CORDWOOD INTO TOWN! HIS RIGS RUN DAY AND NIGHT! THEY GO OUT EMPTY AND COME BACK LOADED!

HAS ANYONE TRIED TO TRAIL THEM?



YEAH! SIX MARSHALS AND TEN DEPUTIES---BUT THEY NEVER RETURNED!

IT BEGINS TO FIGURE! NOW WHAT ABOUT THIS GIRL JULIE?

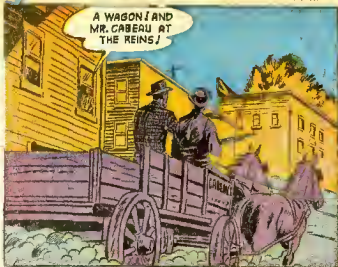
ALL I KNOW IS THAT SHE WORKS FOR A LIVING--AND TO KEEP HER OLD MAN EATING! HE'S POP HANSON, AN OLD MINER!

WE CAN'T OVERLOOK ANYONE CONNECTED WITH KIRBY! I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GIVE MISS JULIE MY SPECIAL ATTENTION!



JUST THEN A WAGON RUMBLES DOWN THE STREET AND...

A WAGON! AND
MR. CABEAU AT
THE REINS!



COME ON, LARRY,
WE'RE GOING FOR
A RIDE!

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA,
BRET! THAT WAGON
MAY PUT US ON FIRST
BASE!



SLIPPING OUT OF TOWN, BRET AND LARRY
TRAIL THE WAGON OUT INTO THE
MOUNTAINS!

THEY'RE
HEADING INTO THAT OLD
MINE SHAFT!

THERE'S
ANOTHER
WAGON THERE
WAITING FOR THEM!
COME ON, LET'S
CLOSE IN!



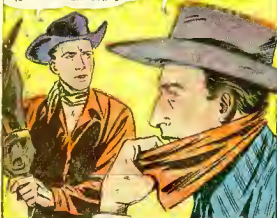
THEY'RE STEALING
ORE FROM THAT
OTHER WAGON!

CABEAU'S TAKING THOSE ORE
SACKS AND LOADING THEM
ON HIS OWN RIG!



I'LL BE DOGGONED!
WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?
TRAIL CABEAU AND SEE
WHERE HE'S HEADING WITH
THAT STOLEN ORE?

WE HAVEN'T THE TIME!
IT'S TOO NEAR MORNING!
I'VE GOT A BETTER
WHERE HE'S HEADING WITH
IDEA! MASK UP!



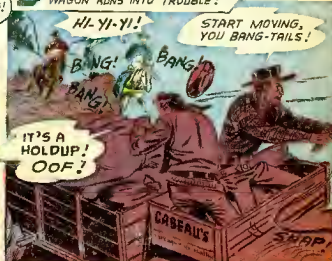
SOON AFTERWARDS ON A NEARBY TRAIL, CABEAU'S
WAGON RUNS INTO TROUBLE!

HI-YI-YI!

START MOVING,
YOU BANG-TAILS!

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

IT'S A
HOLDUP!
OOF!



YOU BLASTED COYTE!
I'LL GET YOU!

THIS IS WHERE YOU GET
OFF, CABEAU!

EEYAH!

ON YOUR FEET, CABEAU!
I'VE GOT SOMETHING
FOR YOU!

HIS BELT
BUCKLE! I'LL
REMEMBER
THOSE
INITIALS

OOF!

WHAM!

THAT FINISHES
CABEAU FOR NOW!

COME ON, BRET, THE
WAGON'S WAITING!

SO-KO!

NOW WE'VE GOT
THE STUFF, WHAT'LL
WE DO WITH IT?

WE'LL DUMP IT IN
THAT ABANDONED MINE
SHAFT WE PASSED
GETTING HERE,
THE JULIANNA!

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, STRAP GALLAND
IS BUSY GETTING IN GOOD WITH KIRBY!

---AND WHEN I LOOKED
OUT OF THE WINDOW THERE
WERE THOSE TWO BUCKAROOS
CLIMBING DOWN THE ROOF
TO THE STREET!

I APPRECIATE LOYALTY,
GILLIS! PERHAPS I
CAN THROW SOME-
THING YOUR WAY!

TO START WITH, MOVE YOUR THINGS OVER TO THE ROOM NEXT TO OUR TEXAS GUESTS AND KEEP AN EYE ON THEM NIGHT AND DAY!



I'LL STICK TO THEM LIKE GLUE!

JUST THEN, CABEAU ARRIVES!

KIRBY, I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU, IN PRIVATE!



IT'S ALL RIGHT, CABEAU! I'VE JUST TAKEN GILLIS INTO THE CORPORATION!

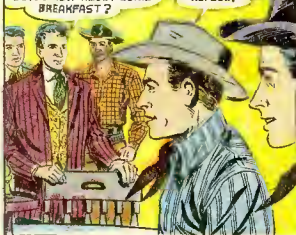
TWO MASKED GUNMEN HI-JACKED THE ORE WAGON LAST NIGHT! THE WAGON'S BACK AT THE STABLE--- **EMPTY!** SO THEY'VE CACHED THE LOAD SOMEWHERE!



QUIET, CABEAU! SOMEONE'S COMING!

WELL, MY FRIENDS FROM TEXAS! GOOD MORNING, BOYS! HOW ABOUT SOME BREAKFAST?

THANKS, THAT'S AN INVITATION WE NEVER REFUSE!



THAT BELT BUCKLE!



THESE ARE THE TWO YEGGS WHO HELD ME UP, KIRBY!

HOLD IT, CABEAU! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! THESE BOYS ARE FRIENDS OF MINE! ISN'T THAT RIGHT, IVERS?



QUICKLY, BRET COVERS UP!

MIGHTY SORRY, KIRBY, WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE TIED UP WITH CABEAU, OR WE'D HAVE LAID OFF THAT ORE WAGON!

WELL THEN, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TURN OVER THE ORE ---AND THERE'LL BE NO HARD FEELINGS!





WELL NOW, THAT WAS MIGHTY RICH ORE, KIRBY, AND I—

HI-YI-YI!
HP, YIP! YAHOO!

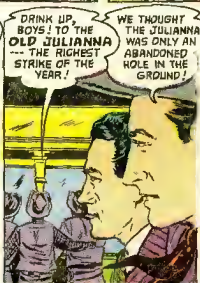


GATHER ROUND, YOU LUCKLESS SONS-OF-GUNS, AND LOOK AT SOME REAL ORE! AND THEY CALL THAT CLAIM OF MINE HANSON'S FOLLY!



IT'S JULIE'S FATHER! HE'S STRUCK IT RICH!

NONSENSE! THAT CLAIM OF HIS ISN'T WORTH A DIME! IF THERE'S ANY GOLD IN THE MINE SOMEONE DUMPED IT DOWN THE SHAFT!



DRINK UP, BOYS! TO THE OLD JULIANNA --- THE RICHEST STRIKE OF THE YEAR!

WE THOUGHT THE JULIANNA WAS ONLY AN ABANDONED ROLE IN THE GROUND!



SO THAT'S WHERE YOU DUMPED IT? WELL, IF YOU EXPECT A CUT ON THAT DEAL, YOU'LL HAVE TO CHANGE YOUR PLANS NOW!

LOOKS AS IF YOU'VE GOT US THERE, MR. KIRBY! AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE WE CAUSED YOU THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS HELP YOU GET THAT ORE BACK!



THAT'S STRAIGHT TALK, IVERS! GABEAU, YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A COUPLE OF BOYS WORTH A DOZEN MULDOONS!

IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, KIRBY!



MEANWHILE AT THE BAR, POP HANSON IS STILL THE CENTER OF ATTENTION!

AS SOON AS I GET A FEW TONS OF ORE, WILL YOU ASSAY IT FOR ME, MR. SULLIVAN?

ANY TIME, HANSON! I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE!

DAD, THIS IS WONDERFUL! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!

JULIE, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE'RE LIVING IN THAT BIG HOUSE IN DENVER WE ALWAYS WANTED! COME ALONG, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



LISTEN, HONEY, AND DON'T JUMP! THAT ONE ISN'T REALLY OURS! SOME HIGH-GRADING SKUNKS DUMPED A LOAD DOWN THE JULIANNA SHAFT!



DAD! AND YOU'RE GOING TO PASS IT OFF AS YOURS?

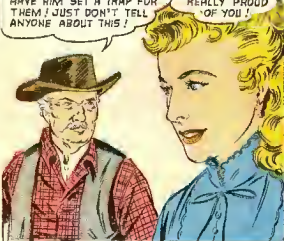
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN THAT! I FIGURED IT WAS THE BEST WAY TO CATCH THE GOOKS WHO DUMPED IT THERE! THEY'RE SURE TO TRY TO HI-JACK IT FROM ME!

I WON'T HAVE YOU TANGLING WITH HI-JACKERS!

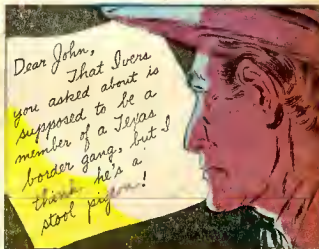


DON'T WORRY, I'M GOING TO MARSHAL TETHEROE AND HAVE HIM SET A TRAP FOR THEM! JUST DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!

DON'T WORRY! AND DAD, I'M REALLY PROUD OF YOU!



THAT NIGHT AN URGENT MESSAGE ARRIVES AT THE OFFICE OF MARSHAL TETHEROE!



Dear John,
That Ivers you asked about is supposed to be a member of a Texas border gang, but I think he's a stool pigeon!

"... THE OTHERS WERE ROUNDED UP, BUT IVERS WAS RELEASED BY THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL! NOTHING ON THE OTHER TWO YET!

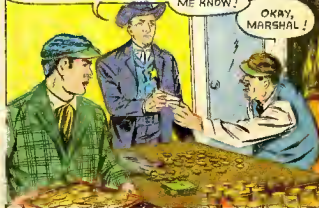
YOUR FRIEND,
WILLIAM SUMMERS



SHORTLY AFTERWARD THE MARSHAL VISITS KIRBY'S PRIVATE OFFICE JUST AS STRAP IS BEING CHECKED IN FOR THE EVENING!

TELL SILVER THIS JUST CAME IN FROM TEXAS! IF HE WANTS ANYTHING DONE ABOUT IT LET ME KNOW!

OKAY, MARSHAL!





SOON AFTERWARDS, KIRBY ARRIVES
AND...



MEANWHILE, ON THE TRAIL NEAR THE
JULIANNA MINE...



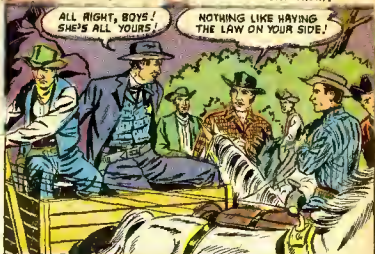
COME ON, ENERGY! THIS TRAP WAS MY IDEA! I'M NOT LETTING ANYONE FREEZE ME OUT OF THE FUN! WE'RE FOLLOWING THE WAGON!



DOWN THE TRAIL, THE DOUBLE-CROSSING MARSHAL IS MET BY KIRBY'S GANG, WITH BRET AND LARRY AMONG THEM!

ALL RIGHT, BOYS! SHE'S ALL YOURS!

NOTHING LIKE HAVING THE LAW ON YOUR SIDE!



ENERGY, LOOKS AS IF WE'VE BEEN TWO-TIMED BY THE ORNERIEST CRITTER THAT EVER WORE A TIN SHIELD! COME ON, WE'RE GOING TO TOWN!



JUST THEN, STRAP JOINS THE GANG!

HI-YA, MARSHAL! SILVER WANTS TO SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY! YOU'RE TO RIDE IN WITH ME!

I SEE! DID HE GET THAT LETTER, GILLIS?



SURE DID! HE SAYS TO LET ALL BETS RIDE AS THEY LIE! HE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!



AS STRAP BRUSHES PAST, HE SLIPS A NOTE FURTIVELY TO BRET!

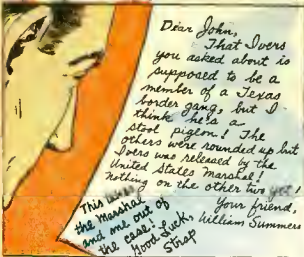


LARRY RIDE UP AND TELL CABEAU MY HORSE PICKED UP A STONE! I'LL BE RIGHT ALONG!

ALL RIGHT, BRET! BUT BE CAREFUL!



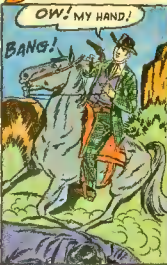
MOMENTS LATER, BRET IS READING THE TIP-OFF LETTER FROM TEXAS, AND STRAP'S ADDED MESSAGE!



MEANWHILE, ON THE TRAIL TO GRIPPLE CREEK...



BUT AN INSTANT LATER...



KIRBY!
DENVER!

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO! WHERE'S THAT LETTER, GILLIS?



WHAT LETTER? ALL RIGHT, DENVER! LET'S MAKE HIM TALK!

UGH!



AND ELSEWHERE IN THE HILLS, AS GABEAU'S WAGON TURNS ONTO A SIDE TRAIL...



I RECKON THEY WANT OUR EDUCATION TO STOP HERE, BRET!

GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO WORK OUR WAY THROUGH COLLEGE! WE'LL RIDE THE RIDGE AND TRAIL THEM!



AS DAWN BREAKS...



THERE MUST BE SOMETHING PRETTY IMPORTANT IN THAT SHACK! THEY'VE GOT IT HEAVILY GUARDED! WE'LL CHECK AS SOON AS THE WAGON LEAVES!



AS THE WAGON LEAVES, THE TWO LAWMEN SLIP UP TO THE BUILDING AND...

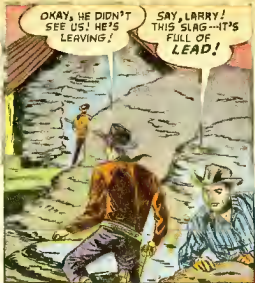
IT'S AN UNLOADING CHUTE!
THOSE SACKS OF ORE WERE
STORED SOMEWHERE
BELOW!

QUICK! I HEAR
FOOTSTEPS! LET'S
GET BEHIND THAT
SLAG PILE!



OKAY, HE DIDN'T
SEE US! HE'S
LEAVING!

SAY, LARRY!
THIS SLAG--IT'S
FULL OF
LEAD!



LEAD, EH? IT SURE WOULD
BE NICE TO KNOW WHAT
THEY'RE DOING UNDER
THAT SHACK!

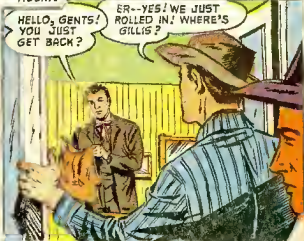
WE CAN'T GO DOWN
THERE NOW! WE'VE
GOT TO GET BACK
TO TOWN AHEAD OF
CABEAU! COME ON,
LET'S GET BACK TO
THE HORSES!



WHEN BRET AND LARRY RETURN TO CRIPPLE
GREEK, THEY CARELESSLY ENTER STRAP'S
ROOM!

HELLO, GENTS!
YOU JUST
GET BACK?

ER--YES! WE JUST
ROLLED IN! WHERE'S
GILLIS?



THAT SKUNK WAS A GOVERN-
MENT MAN! THE MARSHAL
GOT A TIP-OFF LETTER ABOUT
HIM FROM TEXAS! GILLIS
STOLE THE LETTER AND SHOT
THE MARSHAL! BUT KIRBY
AND I GOT THERE
JUST IN TIME!

JUST IN
TIME FOR
WHAT?

TO GRAB GILLIS
AND WORK HIM
OVER! HE CAME
THROUGH AND
ADMITTED
EVERYTHING!



CAN YOU IMAGINE A
WEASEL LIKE THAT!
WHAT DID YOU DO
TO HIM, DENVER?

I ALWAYS GIVE
A GAME GUY
A BREAK! I
PLUGGED HIM IN
THE **BACK** SO
HE WOULDN'T SEE
IT COMING! SEE
YOU DOWNSTAIRS,
GENTS!





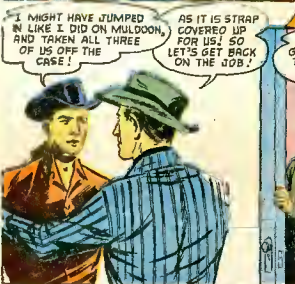
LARRY, THAT LETTER WAS ABOUT ME, NOT STRAP! HE SLIPPED IT TO ME LAST NIGHT, HE ADDED A MESSAGE ON IT TO SAY HE WAS DROPPING OUT OF THE CASE AND WAS TAKING THE MARSHAL WITH HIM!

I SEE!



I BURNED THE LETTER BACK THERE ON THE ROAD WHEN I STALLED TO LOOK AT MY HORSE'S HOOF! IT'S MY FAULT FOR HOLDING OUT ON YOU!

NO! YOU DID WHAT STRAP WANTED! THAT'S WHY HE SLIPPED THE LETTER TO YOU, NOT TO ME!



I MIGHT HAVE JUMPED IN LIKE I DID ON MULDOON, AND TAKEN ALL THREE OF US OFF THE CASE!

AS IT IS STRAP COVERED UP FOR US! SO LET'S GET BACK ON THE JOB!



MEANWHILE, IN KIRBY'S OFFICE BELOW...

I RUBBED IT INTO THEM GOOD, BUT IT DIDN'T SEEM TO MEAN A THING! THEY NEVER BATTED AN EYE!

JUST THE SAME, DON'T PLACE ANY BETS ON THOSE TWO TILL WE CHECK WITH THAT OLD FRIEND OF THE MARSHAL'S DOWN IN TEXAS!



MEANWHILE, LARRY HAS SUDDENLY SPOTTED A LEAD!

THERE GOES POP HANSON, ALL SLICKED UP! LOOKS AS IF HE'S LEAVING ON THE STAGE! I WONDER WHERE HE FITS IN ON THIS 'SETUP'?

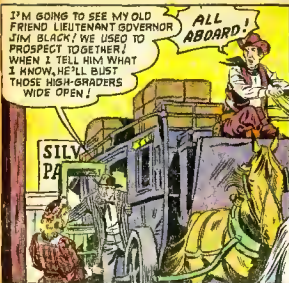
THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! COME ON!



AS THE STAGE PREPARES TO LEAVE...

BUT, DAD, WHY DIDN'T YOU EXPLAIN IT TO MR. HATTON AND THE OTHER MINE OWNER?

THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME! THEY'D THINK I STOLE THE ORE MYSELF! AND ALL THE WHILE THAT OURN MARSHAL WAS MIXED UP WITH THE HIJACKERS!



I'M GOING TO SEE MY OLD FRIEND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR JIM BLACK! WE USED TO PROSPECT TOGETHER! WHEN I TELL HIM WHAT I KNOW, HE'LL BUST THOSE HIGH-GRADERS WIDE OPEN!

ALL ABOARD!



BUT, DAD, PLEASE!

IT'S NO USE, JULIE! NOTHING'S GOING TO STOP ME!

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WORRYING! IF THE WRONG FOLKS FOUND OUT WHAT YOUR DAD WAS GOING TO DO HIS LIFE WOULDN'T BE WORTH A NICKEL!

I SURE WISH I COULD HELP YOU, MISS JULIE!

WAIT! THERE'S ONE MAN WHO MIGHT HELP—MR. KIRBY! HE LIKES FATHER! MAYBE HE COULD THINK OF A WAY TO STOP HIM!

SILVER PALACE

I'M SURE HE COULD!

YEAH, SILVER KIRBY WILL STOP HIM ALL RIGHT! TOO BAD WE CAN'T WARN HER!

WE CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT! WE CAN BEAT THEM TO POP HANSON! COME ON, LET'S RIDE!



THAT NIGHT IN KIRBY'S OFFICE, TWO HENCHMEN REPORT...

HANSON WASN'T ON THE STAGE, BOSS! A COUPLE OF MASKED MEN STUCK IT UP AND TOOK THE OLD MAN AWAY!

RECKON I'M GUILTY, YOUR HONOR!



IVERS—SO IT WAS YOU? AREN'T YOU MAKING SOME HASTY DECISIONS?

WE HAD TO! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T WANT HANSON STIRRING UP THINGS IN DENVER, SO LARRY AND I PICKED HIM OFF THE COACH!



LARRY'S GOT HIM IN THAT OLD CABIN, ON TABOR MOUNTAIN! I CAME IN TO TELL YOU AND TO GET SOME SUPPLIES!

SMART THINKING, IVERS! AFTER ALL YOU COULDN'T BE SURE JULIE WOULD BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TELL US ABOUT HER FATHER!



JUST THEN THE DOOR OPENS AND...

COME IN, JULIE, WE HAVE GOOD NEWS! YOUR DAD IS IN GOOD HANDS--THE GUEST OF OUR FRIENDS FROM TEXAS--IN A MOUNTAIN HUNTING LODGE!

THAT'S WONDERFUL! THANKS SO MUCH, MR. KIRBY!



AND THANK YOU, MR. IVERS! AND PLEASE, DON'T TELL DAD I HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS! HE'D BE FURIOUS!

DON'T WORRY, MAM! HE THINKS WE'RE MEMBERS OF THE GANG AND KIDNAPPED HIM TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT!



THE NEXT DAY, AT THE SHACK IN THE HILLS...

THANKS FOR BRINGING THE SUPPLIES! HOW'D YOU MAKE OUT WITH KIRBY?

IT WORKED SWELL! WE'RE SILVER'S FAIR-HAIRED PLAYMATES!



BETTER GET KIRBY TO SEND SOME HELP! I CAN'T STAY AWAKE ANOTHER NIGHT LISTENING TO HANSON CUSS!

STICK WITH IT UNTIL I GET BACK! I'M GOING TO THAT GHOST TOWN TO SMOKE OUT THE GOPHER HOLE THEY DUMPED THE ORE IN!



LATER THAT DAY FINOS BRET SLIPPING INTO THE GHOST TOWN AND...

NOBODY'S GUARDING THIS TRAP DOOR! THIS IS MY CHANCE!

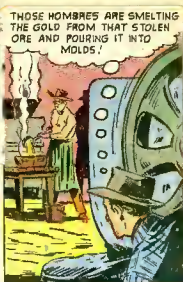


I'M HEADING RIGHT INTO THAT ORE CRUSHER! I'D BETTER MOVE FAST!





MADE IT JUST IN TIME!
ANOTHER FOOT AND THOSE
WHEELS WOULD HAVE
FINISHED ME!



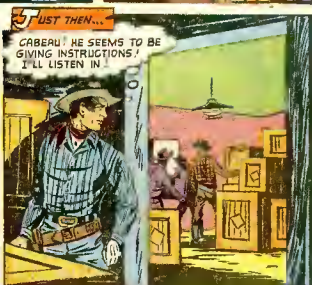
THOSE HOMBRES ARE SMELTING
THE GOLD FROM THAT STOLEN
ORE AND POURING IT INTO
MOLDS!



THOSE FINISHED BARS
OF GOLD! THEY'RE GOING
TO DIP THEM INTO
THAT CRUCIBLE!



LEAD! THEY'RE
DIPPING THOSE GOLD
BARS IN MOLTEN LEAD
TO CAMOUFLAGE
THEM!



JUST THEN...
CABEAU! HE SEEMS TO BE
GIVING INSTRUCTIONS!
I'LL LISTEN IN!



I'LL GET THE WAGON
BACKED UP! THIS SHIPMENT
MUST BE ON TODAY'S
TRAIN TO LEADVILLE!

SO LEADVILLE'S THE
FIRST STOP FOR THAT
LEAD-COVERED GOLD!
BUT WHAT COMES
AFTER THAT---
I WONDER?



THAT'S ALL I
WANT TO KNOW!
NOW TO HEAD
OUT OF HERE!

PIER 63
SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

HOURS LATER, BRET REPORTS BACK AT THE OLD CABIN ON TABOR MOUNTAIN!

IF YOU BLACKLEG, GUNFIGHTING SCALWAGS DON'T LET ME GO, I'LL ---

HOLD IT, OLD-TIMER! YOU'VE GOT US ALL WRONG! JUST TO PROVE IT WE'RE SENDING YOU TO DENVER THIS AFTERNOON ON THE TRAIN TO LEADVILLE! GO AND PACK YOUR VALISE!



GLORY BE! THEY MUST'VE GOT RELIGION!

LARRY, THAT GANG HAS THE SLICKEST OPERATION EVER PULLED! I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT IT AND THEN I'LL EXPLAIN MY PLANS!



BRIEFLY BRET EXPLAINS! THEN...

THOSE LEAD-PLATED GOLD BRICKS LEAVE ON THE SAME TRAIN AS YOU AND HANSON! THE CRATES ARE ADDRESSED TO PIER 63, SAN FRANCISCO!

RIGHT! AND I'M TO TURN HANSON OVER TO THE U.S. MARSHAL IN DENVER TO HOLD IN FRIENDLY CUSTODY WHILE I FOLLOW THAT GOLD!



CORRECT! YOU'RE TO GET ALL THE DOPE IN FRISCO AND THEN COME BACK TO MEET ME HERE!

I'LL SEND YOU ONE OF THOSE "LOVE FROM MOTHER" TELEGRAMS TO TELL YOU WHEN I'M COMING IN!



DAYS LATER ON THE FRISCO DOCKS, LARRY CLOSES 'IN!

THEY'RE RE-ADDRESSING THOSE CRATES --- AND WITH A MIGHTY INTERESTING ADDRESS!



THAT MUST BE THE PURSER OF THE S.S. SHANTUNG! HE'S CHECKING THE CARGO!



HE'S MAILING A COPY OF THE BILL OF LADING! BUT TO WHOM, I WONDER? THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!



SOON AFTERWARD IN THE DISTRICT POST OFFICE, LARRY HAS HIS ANSWER!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW, MR. POST-MASTER? IT'S ADDRESSED TO THE LAUNDRYMAN AT CRIPPLE CREEK!



THE LETTER IS STEAMED OPEN AND...

IT'S A BILL OF LADING! BUT THERE IS A NOTATION IN CHINESE! CHARLEY, THERE, CAN TRANSLATE IT FOR YOU!



IT MEANS---WHEN THIS IS IN YOUR HANDS, FULFILL ALL OBLIGATIONS!

IN OTHER WORDS, ON RECEIPT OF THIS---
PAY OFF!



FIVE DAYS LATER, THE RE-SEALED LETTER ARRIVES IN CRIPPLE CREEK AND...

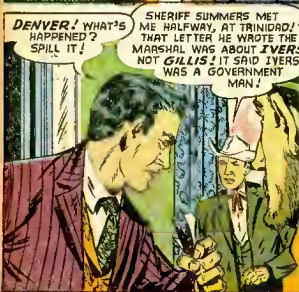
GABEAU, THE PAYOFF IS SET FOR TWO O'CLOCK TODAY! I JUST GOT THE GOOD NEWS!

MY NEWS ISN'T SO GOOD, BOSS!



DENVER! WHAT'S HAPPENED? SPILL IT!

SHERIFF SUMMERS MET ME HALFWAY, AT TRINIDAD! THAT LETTER HE WROTE THE MARSHAL WAS ABOUT **IVERS**, NOT **GILLIS**! IT SAID **IVERS** WAS A GOVERNMENT MAN!



KIRBY, WE'RE SUNK! THEY MUST KNOW EVERYTHING BY NOW!

THEY DON'T KNOW WHO PAYS US OFF, OR WHEN! THEY COULD BE WAITING FOR THAT!



CABEAU, SEND A COUPLE OF MEN TO BRING IN GALLAND AND HANSON! AND TELL IVERS I WANT TO SEE HIM!

IT'S A PLEASURE, KIRBY!



BUT JUST THEN, BRET IS READING A TELEGRAM DELIVERED BY THE MID-MORNING STAGE!

THURSDAY---
THAT'S TODAY!
I'D BETTER HEAD
FOR THE SHACK
TO MEET
LARRY!

*Father will be
back Thursday.
Hope you can
visit us soon.
Love,
Mother*



BUT CABEAU'S MEN BEAT BRET TO THE SHACK, AND AS LARRY ARRIVES...

HELLO, YOUNG FELLER! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

YEH! BETTER GIVE ME YOUR GUN BEFORE YOU TRY SOMETHING FOOLISH!



I DON'T GIVE UP THAT EASILY...
UGH!!!

THIS SHOULD QUIET YOU DOWN!

CONK!



AND WHEN BRET ARRIVES AT THE SHACK, CABEAU GREETES HIM PERSONALLY!

HELLO, IVERS! YOUR PAL WENT IN WITH THE BOYS! SILVER SENT FOR HIM! IT'S PAYDAY!

THAT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!



MEANWHILE, IN KIRBY'S PRIVATE ROOMS AT THE SILVER PALACE...

I THINK IT'S SAFE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PAYOFF, DENVER! IF THEY WERE EXPECTING REINFORCEMENTS, HE'D BE BRAGGING ABOUT IT!

WHAT ABOUT IVERS?

YOU SAID IT!



WHEN CABEAU BRINGS HIM IN, MOVE THEM BOTH TO THE GHOST TOWN! NICE THING ABOUT A SMELTER, IT LEAVES NO TRACES AT ALL!



AS KIRBY LEAVES THE SILVER PALACE...

HELLO, KIRBY. CABEAU TOLD ME THE GOOD NEWS!

I'M GIVING A LITTLE PARTY FOR THE OCCASION, IVERS! GO ON UP AND JOIN THE BOYS! I'LL BE BACK SOON!



BUT BRET SMELLS A TRAP, AND AT THE DOOR UPSTAIRS.

YOU FIRST, CABEAU!



I SEE! EVERYBODY'S PAYDAY BUT OURS. EH CABEAU? OKAY HOMBRES, TURN GALLAND LOOSE!



BUT AS THE OUTLAWS UNTIE LARRY'S ROPES...

SO YOU WANT YOUR PARTNER, EH? OKAY, HERE HE IS!



YOU ASKED FOR IT, BOYS!

EEEEYAH!

MY HAND!



OKAY, MEN!
NOW MARCH OUT
WITH YOUR HANDS
UP!

GET SET, BOYS!
HERE THEY COME!

LOOKS AS IF THERE'S
MORE OF THEM OUT HERE
IN THE HALL! WE'LL HAVE
TO FIGHT OUR WAY
CLEAR!

GET THEIR
GUNS, MEN!

IT'S A
PLEASURE!

TCH, TCH. YOU BOYS SHOULD
HAVE USED THE STAIRWAY.
IT'S SAFER!

WHAM!

BOM!

CRASH!
SOCK!
CRASH!

SIDE BY SIDE, BRET AND LARRY FIGHT THEIR WAY
THROUGH THE GANG AND THEN TURN THEM OVER
TO THE MINERS WHO HAVE ASSEMBLED IN THE BAR!

BOYS, THESE HOMBRES WERE THE LEADERS
IN ALL THE KILLINGS AND HIGH-GRADING
JOBS! I WANT YOU TO HOLD THEM AS
PRISONERS IN THE NAME OF THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT!

WE'LL DO
THAT FOR
UNCLE SAM,
ANY DAY!

COME ON, LARRY, WE
MISSED SILVER KIRBY.
HE MUST HAVE GONE
OUT TO GET THE
PAYOFF!

AND I KNOW
JUST WHERE
TO LOOK
FOR HIM!

MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE OF
AH FONG'S LAUNDRY...

LARRY, LOOK!
IT'S MISS JULIE!
SHE'S GOING
BEHIND THAT
COUNTER!

THERE'S SOME-
THING FUNNY
GOING ON IN
THERE! LET'S
MOVE IN, BRET!



QUIET, AH FONG!
WE'RE TAKING
OVER!

GLUG!



IN THE BACK ROOM A STRANGE SCENE IS
TAKING PLACE, AS JULIE SPEAKS TO THE
GOVERNMENT ASSAYER--JAMES SULLIVAN...

YOU'D BETTER LEAVE
TOWN, TOO, MR. SULLIVAN!
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW
MUCH THEY'VE FOUND
OUT!

THANKS FOR THE
WARNING, MISS
JULIE! BUT IF
THEY DON'T
SUSPECT YOU,
I'M SURE THEY
WON'T SUSPECT
ME!



WHEN THE SMOKE SETTLES,
I CAN START A NEW
ORGANIZATION! MY
MARKET FOR GOLD IS
INEXHAUSTIBLE!

YOU'RE WRONG,
SULLIVAN! THE
MARKET'S CLOSED!



THE PAYOFF! ALL IN
BRAND NEW UNITED
STATES MONEY!

YOU'RE A PRISONER OF
THE GOVERNMENT YOU
WERE SUPPOSED TO
SERVE, MR. JAMES
SULLIVAN!



THE NAME IS JAMES **CHIANG**
SULLIVAN, SIR! I OWE ALLEGIANCE
ONLY TO MY MOTHER'S COUNTRY!
BY NOW, THE GOLD IS ON ITS
WAY TO **CHINA**!

SORRY TO
DISAPPOINT YOU,
BUT BY NOW
IT'S BACK IN
THE U.S. MINT!



JUST THEN KIRBY ARRIVES!

DROP YOUR GUNS! GIVE THE
BAG TO JULIE, IVERS! AND DON'T
TRY ANY ROUGH STUFF!
JULIE CAN'T STAND
BLOODSHED!



BUT BRET ACTS WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT!

